increasing U. S. interference in India's developmental programmes like space, atomic power and the like; and

(b) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) India and the US maintain a continuing dialogue on all major issues of concern to each country. Since these issues are addressed bilaterally, Government do not propose to raise such issues in multilateral fora like the UN.

**Complaints regarding Bogus Passports**

2788. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding issue of bogus passports from the Lucknow Passport Office; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Cases of passports which have been obtained fraudulently from various passport offices in India including Passport Office, Lucknow, have come to Govt.'s notice. Wherever investigation of such cases substantiates that the passports were fraudulently obtained, necessary action is taken under the Passport Act, 1967.

**लखनऊ पासपोर्ट कार्यालय में दलालों के माध्यम से पासपोर्ट जारी किया जाना**

2789. **श्रीमती कैलाशपति**: क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 1 जुलाई, 1993 को लखनऊ से प्रकाशित समाचार पत्र "स्वतंत्र भारत" में प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है कि पासपोर्ट कार्यालय में पासपोर्ट केवल दलालों के माध्यम से ही जारी किए जा रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उक्त कार्यालय में भ्रष्टाचार को रोकने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं या उठाने का विचार रखती है?

**विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर. एल. भाटिया)**: (क) से (ग) सरकार ने इस खबर को देखा है। सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि पासपोर्ट कार्यालय से सम्बन्ध न रखने वाले कुछ व्यक्ति आवेदकों का शोषण करने की कोशिश करते हैं। जब भी पासपोर्ट कार्यालय के किसी कर्मचारी के संबंध में कदाचार अथवा भ्रष्ट आचरण का कोई विशिष्ट आरोप साबित हो जाता है तो कानून के अनुसार कार्यवाही की जाती है।

**Agreement between India and Ukraine**

2790. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ukraine has decided to cooperate with India in the field of Defence, Space, Shipping and sophisticated technology;

(b) if so, whether during President's visit a number of proposals were considered;

(c) if so, whether any delegation from India visited Ukraine; and

(d) if so, what are the proposals on which Agreement has been reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between India and Ukraine signed on 27-3-1992 provides for cooperation in several fields including the political, trade, cultural, industrial, science & technology and environmental spheres. In pursuance of that Treaty, bilateral agreements with Ukraine are being negotiated in a variety of fields.

(b) During the President's visit to Ukraine ongoing and potential areas of cooperation were discussed.

(c) and (d) Future discussions are envisaged in both Kiev and New Delhi on ongoing and new areas of cooperation.

**Increase in Fee for Duplicate Passport**

2791. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to hike the fee for issue of duplicate Passports in lost/damaged documents;

(b) if so, whether the main reason is that there has been an increase in the loss of atleast 10,000 passports every year reported by Indian nationals;

(c) whether a racket in the use of such Passports after substitution of Photographs has been discovered in the Gulf region, Western Europe and North America;

(d) if so, to what extent Government propose to hike the fee of duplicate passports; and